

I am writing about the effect of communication towers on migratory birds. As a volunteer with the Wildlife Rescue League in Northern Virginia, I am very concerned about the millions of birds who die in collisions with the more than 138,000 FCC registered towers, especially songbirds who migrate at night.

It seems that no studies have been made about what aspects of the structure of these towers result in the most fatalities. As a start, I urge you to conduct investigations into those tower components which are most lethal. Secondary studies should be made of the towers' environmental placement and the impact of that on birds' deaths. The placement and structure of all new towers should be considered in this light before construction begins. In the meantime, please stipulate that towers take immediate precautions based on existing knowledge, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's voluntary tower siting and placement guidelines.

It would be wonderful if devices or components could be found that effectively deterred or warned birds of these towers, thus preventing their collision and death.

Bird species are going extinct at an alarming rate (according to research conducted by Worldwatch Institute), so I ask to please take whatever steps you can to minimize these deaths and the progressive extinction of migratory birds. We share the world with them, and it would be a quiet, graceless world without them. Thank you.